

Water System Adequate But Future Growth Necessary, Says Report

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

A water department report issued last week shows the town can meet its current water needs, but that it must continue to develop new water sources and improve its distribution system to adequately satisfy future demand.

Duxbury has ten wells with one water treatment plant to remove iron and manganese at one well. It also has 123 miles of pipe and two storage tanks — the Captain's Hill tank that holds two million gallons and the Birch St. standpipe that contains one million gallons.

A consultant who reviewed the Duxbury's water resources had good news for town officials.

"We found the facilities to be in excellent condition," said Gary McCarthy at last week's selectmen's meeting.

Currently, the wells can meet the average daily demand of 1.5 million gallons and even satisfy the maximum demand of 4 million gallons, which occurred on a hot summer day in 1999. However, McCarthy projected that in ten years, the average daily usage will increase to 1.7 million gallons and the maximum demand could spike to over 5 million gallons during a single day. Before that happens, the town must develop new sources within five years.

"The town should be look-

ing at other sources," said McCarthy.

There are two wells, Damon I and II, under development. They are located off Church St. behind Weston Farms. Damon I has been approved but never used. However, last fall officials discovered the gasoline additive MTBE in a sample taken from Damon II. The water department has hired consultants to tackle the problems of locating this contaminant and figuring out how it can be removed.

McCarthy recommended that the Damon wells go on line by 2004. In the meantime, he felt the town needed to continue exploring additional sources on land it has acquired already for future wells. The town has future well sites at Church St. and Island Creek Pond.

In addition to building more wells, Duxbury must improve its water distribution system. It must solve a low pressure problem in the north and west of town, replace undersized water

pipes and old mains on Washington St., Route 3A, Autumn Ave. and in north Duxbury, and decrease the number of places where pipes dead end. Also suggested is a connection of the water pipes of two subdivisions in north Duxbury currently divided by Route 3. Finally, creating a high pressure zone in West Duxbury is also a priority. This would mean demolishing the Birch St. standpipe and replacing it with a new tank.

The costs of these master plan recommendations is not inexpensive. It is estimated to be between \$1,055,000 to \$2,075,000 to accomplish all these improvements within the next five years. However, there are state grants available for distribution systems.

At the 2001 town meeting voters will be asked to spend \$550,000 to clean and line the old cast iron water main on Washington St. This is part of the water department's capital budget.